

As for The Harmless People, U.R. thinks Elizabeth Marshall Thomas's account is not to be trusted, because she is politically correct. I think U.R. goes too far in this respect, but I do have doubts about Mrs. Thomas. In the epilogue to the 1989 edition of The Harmless People she acknowledged that her observation that the Bushmen suppressed all forms of aggression was applicable only to the Bushmen whom she ^{had} observed personally, and that among some other groups of Bushmen there was a good deal of violence. In an article in The New Yorker, 7/30/07, page 56, Ian Parker wrote: "'The Harmless People', as Elizabeth Marshall Thomas referred to [them] ..., had turned out to have a murder rate higher than any American city." Mrs. Thomas could have defended herself against this as she did in the epilogue to the 1989 edition of The Harmless People, but instead she answered with a letter to The New Yorker that reeked of political correctness: "[The Bushmen's] energy was devoted to peace-keeping, coöperation, equality, and the elimination of jealousy, partnership, unity, and Friendship. [Sic!]" The New Yorker, 8/27/08, page 8. In her letter, Mrs. Thomas did not limit this to the Bushmen she had observed personally.